

FACTS ABOUT

Truck and Bus Regulation Agricultural Vehicle Provisions

Delayed compliance dates for owners of agricultural vehicles

On December 12, 2008, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approved a new regulation to significantly reduce emissions from existing on-road diesel vehicles operating in California. The regulation requires affected trucks and buses to meet performance requirements between 2011 and 2023. By January 1, 2023, all vehicles must have a 2010 model year engine or equivalent. For general information about the regulation, see *Overview of the Truck and Bus Regulation*. This fact sheet discusses the special provisions for certain agricultural vehicles.

How does the regulation define an agricultural vehicle?

An agricultural vehicle is one that meets one of the following definitions:

- A vehicle used exclusively to deliver fertilizer or pesticides to a farm. It must display the legally required hazardous material placard and be owned by a business with a pesticide or fertilizer license.
- A vehicle owned by a farming business that is used exclusively in agricultural operations or by a beekeeping business used exclusively to transport its own bees. Examples include farm trucks used to pick up supplies, mend fences, move cattle, and other farming operations, but not personal use vehicles or vehicles leased to others.
- A truck that is designed for and used exclusively in agricultural operations such as manure spreaders, feed mixers, and bale processors, but does not include support vehicles used to service equipment or to transport workers, equipment or supplies. Water trucks used exclusively on farms are also included.
- A truck used exclusively to transport unprocessed agricultural products to the first point of processing. Examples include trucks transporting crops from the farm to a packing shed, cotton to a cotton gin, or logs from the forest to the saw mill.

What is a farming business?

A farming business is a business that operates or manages a farm for profit, either as owner or tenant. It does not include farm support businesses such as farm labor companies, or businesses providing other agricultural services such as farm management for a fee or on a contract basis.

What are agricultural operations?

Agricultural operations include the activity of growing or harvesting crops for the primary purpose of making a profit including horticultural, viticultural, aquacultural, forestry, dairy, livestock, bee, or farm product. It also includes the cutting or removing of timber, solid wood products, and biomass from forestlands for commercial purposes.

What are the provisions that apply to agricultural vehicles?

Limited-Mileage Agricultural Vehicles

Vehicles qualifying as agricultural vehicles must not exceed the annual mileage limits. Starting January 1, 2010, agricultural vehicles that operate below the annual mileage thresholds shown in Table 1, based on engine model year, may delay the PM filter and replacement requirements until January 1, 2017. By January 1, 2017, these vehicles must comply with the regulation like non agricultural vehicles. All qualifying agricultural vehicles must report and be labeled.

Table 1 - Limited-Mileage Agricultural Vehicles	
2006 or newer engines	less than 25,000 miles per year
1996 through 2005 engines	less than 20,000 miles per year
Pre-1996 engines	less than 15,000 miles per year

Low-Mileage Agricultural Vehicles

Starting January 1, 2010, agricultural vehicles that drive fewer than 10,000 miles each year may delay the PM filter and replacement requirements until January 1, 2023.

Limiting conditions

Each year, the number of agricultural vehicles qualifying for the lower mileage exemptions may not increase. However, agricultural vehicles may be replaced if the following conditions are met:

- The replacement vehicle is at least one year newer than the one being replaced,
- The total mileage for the replacement vehicle and the one being replaced continues to meet the mileage limits, and
- The number of vehicles that qualify for the provisions does not increase.

What are the provisions for specialty agricultural vehicles?

Vehicles approved as specialty agricultural vehicles may delay the retrofit and engine replacement requirements until January 1, 2023. These vehicles have no mileage restrictions, but are limited to 1,100 vehicles in the San Joaquin Valley and 2,200 statewide. Once the limits are reached no more vehicles will qualify as specialty agricultural vehicles. These vehicles must be reported and labeled.

Specialty agricultural vehicles are limited to the following body types and uses:

- trucks used to transport cotton modules
- farmer owned water trucks
- feed or mixer trucks used to dispense feed at calf and cattle feedlots
- trucks used exclusively to resupply airplanes or helicopters

How are the vehicles in the fleet that do not qualify as agricultural vehicles treated?

Vehicles that do not qualify for the agricultural vehicle provisions must meet the requirements of the regulation like other non-agricultural vehicles. There are three compliance options available and they include the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) compliance schedule, the BACT percentage limits, and the fleet averaging option. The details of these options can be found in the regulatory language. In addition, a fleet calculator is available to assist fleet owners in developing their own compliance programs. Additional information is provided in the *Truck and Bus Regulation General Overview*.

What are the reporting requirements for agricultural vehicles?

By March 31, 2010, fleets utilizing the agricultural vehicles provision must report information on the fleet as it existed on January 1, 2009, and report by January 31 each year thereafter. This includes all low, limited, specialty, and non-ag vehicles.

For More Information

Fact sheets, compliance tools, and regulatory documents are available at www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck or by calling the ARB's diesel hotline at (866) 6DIESEL (634-3735).

To obtain this document in an alternative format or language please contact the ARB's Helpline at (800) 242-4450 or at helpline@arb.ca.gov. TTY/TDD/ Speech to Speech users may dial 711 for the California Relay Service.